

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

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USIA-15 IO-14 EUR-25 SAM-01 DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-03

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R 200630Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7871

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINTS ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5370

BEIRUT PLEASE PASS TO BAGHDAD

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG JO

SUBJECT: GOE-GOJ JOINT COMMUNIQUE

REF: AMMAN 4075 (NOTAL)

1. GOJ-GOE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER HUSAIN'S ALEXANDRIA
TALKS WITH SADAT (FBIS 181749) IS, OF COURSE, HEADLINE NEWS HERE.

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AHRAM BANNERS: " JORDAN DROPS ALL RESERVATIONS ABOUT LEGITIMACY

AND RIGHT OF PLO". AKHBAR PROCLAIMS A "TURNING POINT IN ARAB ACTION". IN VIEW OF WHAT SEEMS TO US THE AMBIGUITY OF THE KEY SENTENCE ON WHO REPRESENTS THE PALESTINIANS, OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HUSAIN VISIT IS THE READINESS OF THE TWO LEADERS TO APPEAR PUBLICLY IN HARMONY WITH ONE ANOTHER. SADAT MUST EITHER BE VERY SURE THAT HE CAN CARRY MODERATE PALESTINIANS WITH HIM IN THIS RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THEIR ARCH ENEMY, OR ELSE HE GENUINELY SEES NO ALTERNATIVE TO DEALING THROUGH AND WITH THE GOJ, AS SUGGESTED BY ASHRAF MARWAN'S REPORTED TALKS IN AMMAN (REFTEL).

2. TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE IS CARRIED IN FULL IN ALL NEWSPAPERS. KEY SECTION IS OBVIOUS PARA 5 WHICH BEGINS: "THE TWO SIDES DECLARED THAT PLO IS LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS, EXCEPT FOR THOSE PALESTINIANS RESIDING IN THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN". WE FIND THE LAST PHRASE AMBIGUOUS TO THE EXTREME. DO RESIDENTS OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS ON THE EAST BANK FALL UNDER THIS RUBRIC? IS THE WEST BANK NO LONGER PART OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM IN THE VIEW OF THE HASHEMITE RULER? WE SHALL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHETHER EMBASSY AMMAN'S VIEW IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF FM FAHMI, WHOSE "INTERPRETATION" IS PUBLISHED BY AHRAH JULY 19 AS FOLLOWS: THE PLO "REPRESENTS ALL PALESTINIANS ON THE WEST BANK, GAZA, AND ABROAD; THE JORDANIAN SIDE AGREES THAT THE WEST BANK WAS A TRUST (WADI'A) OF JORDAN, JUST AS THE GAZA STRIP WAS A TRUST IN THE HANDS OF EGYPT, UNTIL ITS OWNERS CAN FREELY DETERMINE THEIR FATE AND OBTAIN THEIR LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS".

3. AHRAH, NOT IN ACTUAL TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE, BUT IN FEATURE STORY DESCRIBING ITS SALIENT POINTS, INTERESTINGLY TRANSCRIBES THIS KEY PHRASE AS "EXCEPT FOR THOSE PALESTINIANS WHO ARE NATIONALS (RA'AAYAA) OF THE HKJ. THIS MAY, OF COURSE, JUST BE SLOPPY JOURNALISM, BUT WE NOTE THAT THE FAHMI "INTERPRETATION" IS PLACED DIRECTLY AFTER THIS MISQUOTE.

4. FAHMI IS ALSO QUOTED IN AHRAH AS ANNOUNCING THAT HE WILL "SOON" EXTEND INVITATIONS FOR A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF EGYPT, SYRIA AND JORDAN, TOGETHER WITH PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT HEAD, WHICH WILL BE PRELUDE TO 4-POWER SUMMIT.

5. THE PRESS REPORTS AGAIN JULY 19 THAT ARAFAT IS DUE IN COMING
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FEW DAYS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SADAT, AND VARIOUS OTHER BILATERAL MEETINGS ARE PLANNED. ACCORDING TO AHRAH, HUSAIN WILL FLY TO WASHINGTON IN FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST TO MEET PRESIDENT NIXON PRIOR TO A VISIT TO CANADA. ZAYD RIFA'I WILL, THE PAPER ADDS, PRECEDE THE KING TO WASHINGTON. KING FAISAL'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO CAIRO AT BEGINNING OF AUGUST IS BADLY KEPT SECRET HERE. KAHBAR JULY 19, FOR THE SECOND TIME, HAS ITEM ANNOUNCING IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF IMPORTANT ARAB FIGURE; ITEM IS STRATEGICALLY PLACED JUST ABOVE

REPORT OF FAISAL RECEPTION OF ARAFAT.

6. COMMENT: WITH
TOP EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS, JOURNALISTS, AND SENIOR
JORDANIAN EMBASSY STAFF LINGERING IN ALEXANDRIA, WE
EXPECT THAT
PREPARATION OF ANALYSIS OF EGYPTIAN VIEW OF HUSAIN VISIT WILL BE
DELAYED A DAY OR TWO. IN THE MEANTIME, FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH,
JUNIOR POLITICAL OFFICEH OF JORDANIAN EMBASSY HERE TOLD UK EMBOFF
THAT GOJ, AS INDICATED IN COMMUNIQUE, HAS INDEED CONCURRED IN NOTION
OF INDEPENDENT PLO NEGOTIATING TEAM FULLY PARTICIPATING AT GENEVA;
THE "APPROPRIATE STAGE" MENTIONED IN THE COMMUNIQUE WILL COME
SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, ACCORDING TO JORDANIAN EMBOFF.
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